

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## Is Man Saved By Faith?

### DIVISION

The religious world is divided on the title of this article and no doubt there will never be unity on the subject. Why? It does not seem that it is because the Bible is not plain, but because man never has, and no doubt never will, respect the authority of God in all religious matters. All religions accept faith, but will not turn to God for the meaning of the faith that saves.

### GRACE AND FAITH

Many religious people want to pit Paul against James on the subject of faith, and to try to prove that they contradict each other. This of course is not true. There are rules which must be followed in studying the Bible, as there must be rules in all matters. From football on, ignore the rules and the game is void. The same is true of the Bible, we are "RIGHTLY DIVIDE" it, 2 Tim. 2:15. Which means that we -- 1. Must know who is speaking-- 2. To whom it is speaking-- 3. Under which dispensation it is speaking-- 4. What subject is under discussion. Keep this in mind as we study the Bible at all times!

### PAUL SPEAKS

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, least any should boast", Eph. 2:8-9. If you will read the rest of the chapter, it is plain to understand WHY Paul said this. What he said is true. By grace (God's part) through faith (man's part) we are saved! But what is the Bible definition of faith? This is what is important. Paul is dealing with a group of people who were trying to be saved by the works of the law of Moses (verses 12-18), therefore it was necessary for Paul to explain that salvation is of grace and faith, not the works of the law of Moses! Again, please read all of Eph. 2.

### JAMES SPEAKS

Space will not permit giving James 2, here, but please read the whole second chapter of James before you read further now. James is dealing with people who thought that if the works of the law of

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## EDITORIAL

There are two forms of ignorance. The ignorance which results from lack of knowledge, either because it is not available, or because we do not have the equipment to receive it. We all suffer from this kind of ignorance in some areas. I am ignorant of many facts of science, either because I have never been exposed to these facts, or because I do not have the necessary educational background to understand them. This kind of ignorance is excusable, for we realize that none of us can know everything.

However, there is another kind of ignorance. This is self-imposed ignorance--an ignorance which we choose to have, even though we could dispel it. There are various reasons for choosing to be ignorant. We may not wish to acquire knowledge and understanding in some areas because it would separate us from people with whom we feel comfortable, or people we love. Many youngsters have found, upon returning from college, that they could no longer communicate with loved ones at home, and that they, in turn, were viewed with suspicion and distaste.

Some may wish to remain ignorant because life is simpler that way. Knowledge presents new challenges -- new problems to solve -- corrections to be made. Knowledge demands a quest for more knowledge. This requires study and work. It also presents the ever present risk of discovering some error and of making mistakes. To those who are afraid of whose egos are threatened by being wrong, ignorance is preferred to a quest for knowledge which runs such risks. The comfort and security of ignorance lures many a persons away from the honest quest for knowledge.

Another difficult problem for some to solve is the problem of identity and prestige. New knowledge demands that concepts change, and sometimes changing concepts change the institutions built around them. For those who identify with institutions rather than with ideas, or with truth -- for those whose prestige depends upon maintaining the institution's identity and structure -- for those who feel insecure without the comfort of the infallible institution -- new

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## "Let Not The Church Be Charged"

Well meaning people thinking of good works, sometimes overlook exactly why the Lord established his, church, and so unintentionally misuse church funds. Primarily, the church, as the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti 3:15), is in the world to preach the Gospel, to take care of man's spiritual needs (of. Lk 19:10), and then, secondarily, to take care of man's physical needs (Ga. 2:10). But the secondary purpose is to be pursued only when relatives either cannot or will not aid the destitute (1 Ti 5:16). Elders, therefore, are wise and scriptural when they restrict the use of the Lord's money to preaching the Gospel and charity.

It is good to honor high school juniors and seniors by an annual banquet, but it is a project proper for parents and friends. Since it is not preaching the Gospel and since it is not charity "let not the church be charged" (1 Ti. 5:16).

It is good for Christian boys to play basketball. Part of a boy's need, or of a girl's is bodily exercise, but it is a need to be filled by parents (1 Ti. 5:8). Hence, there is no such thing scripturally as a "church basketball team", and wrong confusion develop if church money is used to buy uniforms for that good project. And likewise, as regards the expense for camping trips and retreats.

It is good for friends to give showers for expectant mothers. Since the building erected for Gospel preaching is not always in use, I can see no harm in simply using church facilities for such purpose, but as such they are not "church showers." If an expectant mother is destitute, it does become a "church shower", but the distinction is biblical if it is a charity case, let elders sponsor the shower, if it is not a charity case, let friends sponsor the shower, and good will result.

It is good to have refreshments at recess at Vacation Bible School, but let these be provided by individuals, not by church funds. Let the lesson materials be bought with church money, but not the cookies. Only for Bible teaching and charity "let the church be charged" .. Hugo McCord.

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen  
and James E. Henley.

**EDITORIAL (cont.)**

knowledge is a threat and ignorance is preferable.

For these and other reasons people choose to remain ignorant. However, because this type of ignorance (i.e. self-imposed ignorance) is NOT excusable, they must mask or disguise it. This is done by pretending that the new knowledge is dangerous or evil; or that the old ignorance has a sacredness about it which must not be questioned. Those who do question it are accused of irreverence, blasphemy, or of having evil motivation.

Why is it that men love the slave masters, who imprison their minds in ignorance, made sacred by many repetitions, but hate the emancipators, who challenge their minds and souls to the fresh air of freedom in a constant quest for truth?

-From the pen of a Christian brother and clinical psychologist.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

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**Where Do You Fit?**

We must all be conscious of our obligations! We recognize our privileges and opportunities and we must also be conscious of our obligations. Because we are redeemed we have responsibilities to our God and these comprise our obligations. There are many areas of our Christian life that could be discussed in relation to obligations, but just here think about the responsibility to give. There are at least four classes of givers that are clearly evident to the student of human nature and of the Word of God.

1. The covetous man who gives with regret. God knew that there would be this kind of person in the kingdom and therefore He has said: "Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:7) This is the man who says, "Well, I have to give something but I'm not going to enjoy it or do it without regret." Covetousness is, of course, a great sin and will cause us to be eternally lost. (I Corinthians 6:9-10) The man who gives with such an attitude is really giving unworthily or in an unworthy manner, and his giving is really doing him no good.
2. The unteachable--one who resents teaching about giving. There are those, who at the very mention of the word "giving", close their ears and eyes to any teaching at all. Jesus said that these are people whose "heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed," (Matthew 13:15). They refuse teaching on the subject of giving and thus, their ears are stopped, their eyes are closed and their hearts wax gross. How much better it is to have eyes that see and ears that hear.
3. The honest truth seeker, untaught, but teachable. It is comforting to know that there are also those who are honestly seeking the truth on every subject and when giving is spoken of they are teachable. They want to know why and how their giving might be pleasing and acceptable to God. They are taught then to abound in this grace also (II Corinthians 8:7).
4. The liberal giver--the one taught and who believes and practices truth on the matter. This man has been taught and understood that God loveth a cheerful giver. He has also learned that "he that giveth is to do so liberally" (Romans 12:8), and "For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according as a man hath, not

**Can the Common Man Interpret the Bible?**

Thousands of people believe that the common man cannot interpret the Bible. They have been taught that the church is the living authoritative interpreter of the Bible. Those who believe and teach this theory, appeal to II Peter 1:20-21 as their proof text. This passage does not refer to the learner or reader, but speaks of the prophets who brought the prophecies. II Peter 1:20-21 teaches that the writers of the Bible were not permitted to write their own ideas and opinions, but wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that the common man can interpret the scriptures for himself. Paul commended the Bereans because they readily received the word and searched the scriptures daily to see if those things were so. (Acts 17:11) Man is commanded to study the scriptures in order to be approved by God and to rightly divide the word. (II Tim. 2:15) Paul told the Ephesians that when they read, they could understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ. (Eph. 3:4) The admonitions to search, study and read the scriptures are useless unless man can interpret the Bible. If the common man cannot interpret the Bible, God has asked the impossible when instructing us to rightly divide the word. We would have no faith in God if He commanded the impossible.

Religious division exists largely because people in general let someone else do their studying and interpreting for them. It is a rare thing to find people who study the Bible for themselves. Do you study the Bible for yourself or do you depend upon someone else to study and interpret it for you? Can you give Bible proof for what you are religiously or would you have to consult your preacher? The only way to be sure you are right religiously is to study and interpret the Bible for yourself.

according as he hath not". (II Corinthians 8:12) His principle is based upon the promise of the Bible: "And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work..." (II Corinthians 9:8).

We all fit into one of these classes of givers. As you read and examine your own attitude, "WHERE DO YOU FIT?"  
--Paul W. Eubanks.

## Some Things Christian Parents Like In a Teacher

1. Teachers who stick primarily to the Bible and spiritual things.
2. Teachers who apply Bible teaching, striving for character development of the highest type in the pupils.
3. Teachers with good personality - with the disposition, manners, poise, and balance that exemplifies Christian faith and character.
4. Teachers who strive for good order, courtesy, and respect on the part of pupils.
5. Teachers who expect and require good behavior in their classes.
6. Teachers who study, really study, their lessons, adapting them to the needs of the student.
7. Teachers who are genuine in faith, faithfully trying to live each of the lessons they teach.
8. Teachers who are in the classroom by the time the first student arrives.
9. Teachers who are constantly looking for new and better ways of presenting the lesson.
10. Teachers who have an interest in the student's home and social life.

## Some Things That Teachers Like in Parents

1. Parents who attend Bible classes regularly.
2. Parents who help their children attend Bible classes regularly.
3. Parents who help their children to be in Bible class on time.
4. Parents who speak well of the classes, pointing out the good things.
5. Parents who are fairminded, agreeable, and unselfishly helpful to the teacher with all the classroom problems.
6. Parents who appreciate, and express their appreciation, for the efforts of others to help their children.
7. Parents who are real partners with class teachers in the greatest work in the world.
8. Parents who set a time to help their children get their Bible lesson.
9. Parents who maintain discipline at home so the teacher will have no discipline problem in the classroom.
10. Parents who teach their children proper attitudes of worship, in the classroom and public worship service.

True education is a gradual process, like the sunrise--not a sudden one, like lightning.

## We Are Dying Men

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27)

We are dying men living among dying men. Every day the paper is filled with names in the obituary column from people dying all over the state. If we were to broaden the list to all of the states we could have a large Sunday edition of people who died in one day. If we were to broaden the list to include everyone who died in the world in a particular day, we could have a sizable book. People are dying all around us.

We too are dying. Every day that goes by brings us one more day closer to the time that our names will appear in the paper. We may try to fool ourselves-or Satan may try to fool us-into believing that our time will never come to leave the walks of men, but our intellect and the Bible argue against our heart.

Since we will all one day die, if the Lord doesn't come first, wouldn't it be wise to prepare for the journey? I feel this preparation should be two fold. We should, with death in sight, try to live so that we will be missed. We can and should be exerting an influence upon our society that will leave a void when we are gone. Certainly others will eventually step in to take our place, but we should make a dent in the world. Paul describes the type of dent each of us should make-"For me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21).

Secondly, we should, recognizing our deaths to be an unavoidable event, be preparing for the life to come. Once death has overtaken us it is too late to prepare. We have each been given a brief time to let God know our desires. If we want the life to come that He has promised, we will act accordingly. The Lord has expressed very clearly the way to him and eternal life: "LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND" (Mt. 22:37) and "IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" (Jn. 14:15). The Lord offers eternal life to all those who truly desire it. Listen to Jesus speak: "FOR IF YE BELIEVE NOT THAT I AM HE, YE SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS" (Jn. 8:24). "...EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH" (Lk. 13:3). "BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DENY ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN" (Mt. 10:33). "HE

## Saying the Right Things And Not Doin' Nothin'

A young Christian man returned from a year of college at a prominent Christian school. He no doubt was maturing in the faith and beginning to take Christianity seriously. On one occasion he remarked to his dad concerning the church, "We're always saying the right things and not doin' nothin'!" The English grammar may leave something to be desired, but the sentiment expressed is too often valid.

It is true we are always attempting to say the right things. We must if we are to truly follow the Lord (I Peter 4:11; Galatians 1:8-9). We should be proud that we do try to say the right things; that we speak "the truth in love."

But words (even correct, truthful words) to be powerful, must be balanced by consistent action. Christ on one occasion warned the disciples, "The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do, for they preach, but do not practice" (Matt. 23:3).

We need to be warned - Christianity is not just saying the right things, it's doing something as well. We may say and even practice the right things in regard to subjects that are easy to accept and which go against no long-established traditions. But it is different when we move into other areas. We say the right things about love, benevolence, evangelism, and giving ourselves. But, what are we doing? Do our words have real punch because we act, or are they powerless because we only talk?

The youngman's evaluation must sting in our ears and prick our hearts, for in so many areas we're "saying the right thing and not doin' nothin'."

-Larry James

THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED" (Mk. 16:16).

When today is over, you will be a day closer to your death. Have you prepared or are you now preparing yourself for that time? "AND IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGEMENT" (Heb. 9:27). After today you will be one day closer to heaven or hell. You can prepare for heaven, but believe me you will never be prepared for what you find in hell.

--Jerry E. Berry

**IS MAN SAVED (cont.)**

Moses were not still binding, and if salvation was of grace through faith, then all they had to do was to believe that Christ died for them and God would save them if they would believe this fact, whether they obeyed God or not. This is why James wrote as he did. There is no contradiction. James also tells us salvation is by faith, but faith must "work" in order to be faith! Briefly, James states, that faith without works, is like saying to a hungry person depart and be filled", this will do no good, neither will faith without works (14-17), he then states that there is no way to show faith without works (18), the devils believe (19) but as they will not obey God they will be in hell and faith only will place us in the same place (20). He then showed the perfect faith of Abraham, which justified Abraham and caused God to call him "friend", yet the faith of Abraham was "made perfect" (complete Bible faith, acceptable to God) by doing the works which God commanded him to do, (21-23). With this conclusion he presents the Scriptural fact, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (24). Then showing that Rahab, like Abraham, had to show her faith by her works (25), and last, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also", James 2:26. Now this is not hard to understand is it? We must obey God to enter heaven, Matt. 7:21. We must obey Christ to have "eternal salvation", Heb. 5:8-9. To obey is to do what is required of one. In this case, to be saved, we must do what ever God commands us to do in order to be saved. Did you notice that James said we are not saved by faith only!

Glynn V. Purdy

**"Why the House Sank"**

While a contractor was debating the best landing place for a house which he had successfully moved a distance of half a mile over a small frozen lake in Minnesota, the building sank in six feet of water. The ice, which was ten inches thick, was abundantly strong to support the structure while it was moving along, but could not bear up the dead weight when it was brought to a standstill.

If you are a professing Christian, a church member, keep moving along with your part of the work . . . keep busy. If you stop to criticize, to find fault, your dead weight will not only be a burden that the church cannot afford to bear, but you may lose your soul; you may go down to spiritual death in the cold waters of indifference.

-Selected.

**Perhaps this  
Can Help Others ...**

"One of the biggest pains in my heart is, I can reach everyone except the ones dearest to me--my own children. They resent me saying anything to them about their soul or their Lord...I have asked God to forgive me for any wrong I have done in rearing them and to help my husband and me to do what is right from now on. I must not let the pain I feel or the wrongs we have done in the past discourage me, but I am so sorry.

I will reach other children. Maybe someone else can reach mine. I will set the example and live the rest of my life in THE WAY and pray they may see Christ in my life. There is no better way to convince someone that what you recommend is the REAL THING than by using it in our own lives..."

(Faithfulness to Him is so very important. Unfaithfulness confuses not only our own children, but other people as well. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall be also reap." The consequences of bad seeds are so very painful. The harvest of good seed is so rewarding. This is a beautiful attitude of penitence. God will bless such an attitude and give fruit to seed now being sown. Oh, the pain that could be spared all of us if we would but TRUST the LORD with ALL our hearts, and not lean to our own understanding, but in ALL OUR WAYS acknowledge Him and let Him direct our paths. He so wants to. He warns us of the dangers the other way. So often we will not listen until we 'find out for ourselves.' How much easier it is to find out by listening and trusting Him to begin with.

"And from a child you have known the HOLY SCRIPTURES . . . a child left to himself . . .

Sometimes we are so involved with our own present heartaches, pains, or even those of others, we do neglect those nearest and dearest to us. No pain, sorrow, or even regret is wasted if we profit by them and live greater lives. May this one's experience and pain serve to deter hundreds from the same negligence. May it encourage every parent to follow God's instruction to love God with all their heart and to teach their children His way diligently as they rise up in the morning, walk by the way, sit in the house, and as they lie down at night. "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Duet. 6; Prov. 29:15; 17.)

**GOSPEL MEETING**

The Church of Christ of Poughkeepsie, Arkansas will host a series of Gospel Meetings. June the 10th through the 16th. Bro. James E. Henley of Mammoth Spring, Ark. will be the speaker.

**YOUR PREACHER'S WIFE**

There is one person in the church  
Who knows your preacher's life; She's wept and smiled and prayed for him,  
And that is your preacher's wife.

She knows your preacher's weakest point,  
And knows his greatest power; She's heard him speak in trumpet tone,  
In his great triumph hour.

The crowd has seen him in his strength,  
When glistened his drawn sword, As underneath God's banner folds,  
He gaged the devil's horde.

But she knows deep within her heart  
that scarce an hour before She helped  
him pray for strength from God  
Behind a closet door.

You tell your tales of prophets brave  
Who walked across the world, And  
changed the course of history  
By burning words they hurled.

And I will tell how back of them  
Some women lived their lives, Who  
wept with them and smiled with them-  
They were the preacher's wives.

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72557  
Route 3  
Clotis Ragsdale